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09 Jan 2003

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RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

E17

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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CA-02	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DS-00	EUR-01	FDRE-01	HA-09	H-01	INR-00	IO-19
	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	RPCS-01	SNP-00	SP-00
	SR-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01	/055W

-----AA019F 221456Z /38

P 221451Z MAR 93
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3379
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE //ECJ5-P/ETCC// PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 KIGALI 01217

DEPT FOR AF/C, DS/I/CT, AND RP
DEPT PASS AID/AFR/EA AND OFDA/AFR

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PREL, MOPS, CASC, RW
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE.
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REF: A) DAR ES SALAAM 2050, B) KIGALI 1116

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: MINISTER OF DEFENSE JAMES GASANA IS
CONVINCED THAT THE RPF HAS EXECUTED A PULLBACK, BUT
DOES NOT KNOW TO WHERE. HE THOUGHT IT IS TOO EARLY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES L. DARIS
DATE/CASE ID: 1 APR 2003 200203990

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FOR DISPLACED TO ENTER THE BUFFER ZONE WITHOUT A STRENGTHENED NMOG, BUT DID NOT KNOW WHAT WAS BEING DONE TO CREATE SUCH A FORCE. THE RPF HAS LIKELY LEFT INFILTRATORS IN THE RUHENGERI AREA TO COMMIT SABOTAGE; [REDACTED] SUPPORTS THIS CONCLUSION. GOR FORCES HAVE BEEN ORDERED NOT TO ENTER THE BUFFER ZONE. THE GOR HAS NOT YET SENT AN ENVOY TO ADDIS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF THE OAU AND UN. MOD DIRECTOR OF CABINET ORDERED UNAUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION OF WEAPONS FOR CIVIL DEFENSE. END SUMMARY.

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RPF PULLBACK AND THE BUFFER ZONE

3. AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY ECONOFF, MET WITH RWANDAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE JAMES GASANA LATE ON MARCH 19. ON THE RPF PULLBACK, GASANA SAID THAT THE RPF HAD WITHDRAWN FROM ITS MARCH 17 POSITIONS, BUT THAT HE COULD NOT VERIFY IF THE PULLBACK WAS ALL THE WAY TO THE FEB. 8 POSITIONS, OR IF 100 PERCENT OF THE RPF FORCES HAD WITHDRAWN. ONLY THE NEUTRAL MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP (NMOG) CAN GO INTO THE BUFFER ZONE TO
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VERIFY THE WITHDRAWAL. GASANA THOUGHT IT WAS TOO EARLY FOR THE DISPLACED TO GO BACK INTO THE BUFFER ZONE. SOME PEOPLE WERE REPORTEDLY TRYING TO ENTER THE ZONE, BUT MOST APPEARED TO JUST WANT TO LOOK FOR ABANDONED HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS OR FOOD. GASANA DID NOT THINK THE DISPLACED WOULD BE SAFE WITHOUT A STRENGTHENED NMOG TO PROVIDE SECURITY.

4. GASANA STATED THAT OFFICERS HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THE DAR COMMUNIQUE COMMITTED THEM NOT TO PATROL FORWARD OF THEIR CURRENT POSITIONS, I.E. INTO THE BUFFER ZONE. WE TOLD GASANA THAT WE HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION ON MAR. 18 THAT THE GOR WAS PATROLLING FORWARD. THE MINISTER PLANNED TO SPEND THE WEEKEND IN THE FIELD TO REINFORCE THESE ORDERS TO SECTOR COMMANDERS. THE KIGALI - RUHENGERI ROAD BETWEEN TARE AND NEMBA (BASE AREA) PRESENTS A PARTICULAR PROBLEM, IN THAT THE BUFFER ZONE INCLUDES SOME 16 KMS OF THIS CRUCIAL ROAD. THE MINISTER THOUGHT THAT THE ROAD

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MUST BE QUICKLY OPENED FOR CIVILIAN TRAFFIC, AND THAT THE GOR WOULD HAVE TO GET NMOG TO DECIDE IF GOVERNMENT FORCES COULD USE THE ROAD AS WELL. HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN THE RUHENGERI ROAD COULD BE OPENED TO CIVILIAN TRAFFIC.

NMOG STRENGTHENED BY WHOM?

5. ON WHERE THINGS STAND RE: UN / OAU / NMOG, GASANA SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW. HE HAD HEARD NO OFFICIAL WORD ON THE SUBJECT FROM THE GOR OR OAU AND THOUGHT
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THAT THE OAU MAY BE RELUCTANT TO BRING IN THE UN, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME FEELING OVERTAKEN BY INITIATIVES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. AMBASSADOR ASKED WHAT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN ADDIS ABABA IN TALKS WITH THE OAU ON THIS SUBJECT. GASANA SAID THAT NO ONE FROM THE GOR WAS IN ADDIS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE. (NOTE: EMBASSY HAD BEEN HEARING ALL THE WEEK OF MAR. 15 - 19 THAT THE GOR HAD SENT SOMEONE TO ADDIS FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND FROM ARUSHA, THE RUMOR WAS THAT THE GOR WAS TRYING TO MANIPULATE THE OAU INTO ACCEPTING A UN PKO FORCE IN THE BUFFER ZONE. END NOTE.)

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-----AA01E5 221458Z /38

P 221451Z MAR 93
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3380
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
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RPF INFILTRATORS AND RECRUITMENT

6. GASANA FELT THAT THE GOR HAD TO REMAIN EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS AND VIGILANT AT THIS TIME, UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE RPF HAD LEFT INFILTRATORS IN THE BUFFER ZONE. HE STATED THAT THE RPF HAD BEEN RECRUITING IN THE RUHENGERI AREA FROM AMONG THE POPULATION WHICH HAD BEEN UNABLE TO FLEE AT THE TIME THE AREA WAS TAKEN. THESE RECRUITS COULD BE LEFT BEHIND, AS LEGAL RESIDENTS OF THE AREA, TO COMMIT

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SABOTAGE. HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CASES OF
RWAHDAN ARMY DESERTERS, AND SOLDIERS DISCHARGED FROM
THE ARMY DUE TO INDISCIPLINE OR BANDITISM, WHO HAD
JOINED WITH THE RPF ASSUMING THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE
TO STAY IN THE ARMY AFTER FORCE INTEGRATION. GASANA
THOUGHT THAT SOME OF THESE DISAFFECTED SOLDIERS HAD
BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR SOME OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED BY THE RPF.

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CIVIL DEFENSE

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8. GASANA SAID THAT THE MILITARY WAS IN THE PROCESS
OF REPOSSESSING SOME 500 UNAUTHORIZED RIFLES HANDED
OUT IN THE BYUMBA AREA IN THE NAME OF CIVIL DEFENSE;
ALL THE WEAPONS SHOULD BE CONFISCATED BY THE WEEK OF
MAR. 22 - 26. HE TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD JUST
THAT DAY FOUND OUT THAT IT WAS NONE OTHER THAN HIS
DIRECTOR OF CABINET, COL. BAGOSORA THEONESTE, WHO HAD
ORDERED THE DISTRIBUTION OF THESE WEAPONS, FALSLY
USING THE MINISTER'S NAME IN THE PROCESS. (NOTE:
THIS IS THE SAME PERSON ABOUT WHOM THE RPF HAS BEEN
COMPLAINING IN ARUSHA AS BEING A THREAT TO THEIR
SECURITY. END NOTE.)

CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, MINES IN THE BUFFER ZONE

9. THE MINISTER NOTED THAT THE NEXT FEW DAYS / WEEKS
WOULD BE CONFUSED AND INSECURE IN AND AROUND THE
BUFFER ZONE. WHILE IN SOME PLACES THERE ARE NOW
SEVERAL KILOMETERS BETWEEN FORCES, THE BYUMBA AREA IS
STILL VERY TENSE, WITH THE GOR AND RPF FORCES NOSE TO
NOSE. THIS WOULD MEAN A VERY HIGH RISK OF CEASEFIRE

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VIOLATIONS IN THAT AREA. FURTHER, IT WOULD NOW
APPEAR THAT THE RPF HAS MINED SOME AREAS OF THE
BUFFER ZONE, ESPECIALLY IN RUHENGARI, WHERE THERE
HAVE BEEN SEVERAL INCIDENTS OF CIVILIANS TRYING TO GO
INTO THE ZONE AND SETTING OFF MINES. (NOTE:
EMBASSY'S CONTRACT PHYSICIAN REPORTED DOING 5 LEG
AMPUTATIONS ON MAR. 18, 4 SOLDIERS AND ONE CHILD, ALL

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APPARENTLY DUE TO LAND MINE INJURIES. END NOTE.)
GASAMA SAID THAT THE RPF HAD PROMISED TO HAND OVER
MAPS OF ITS MINE FIELDS TO NMOG, BUT HAD NOT YET DONE
SO.

COMMENT

10. VIRTUALLY EVERY ISSUE DISCUSSED WITH GASANA
RETURNED TO THE PROBLEM OF NO EFFECTIVE INTERPOSITION
FORCE FOR THE BUFFER ZONE. VERIFICATION OF THE RPF
PULLBACK, RETURN OF THE DISPLACED, MINE FIELDS,

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INSECURITY, THE USE OF THE RUHENGERI ROAD, FORWARD
PATROLLING BY THE GOR, AVOIDANCE OF CEASEFIRE
VIOLATIONS -- ALL DEPEND UPON A COMPETENT NMOG / UN
FORCE CAPABLE OF PATROLLING THE ENTIRE BUFFER ZONE.
WHILE AMBASSADOR PRESSED THE MINISTER ON THE
IMPORTANCE OF A RAPID FORMULATION OF A GOR POSITION,
THE MINISTER COULD ONLY SAY THAT HE DID NOT KNOW
WHERE THE ISSUE STOOD AT THAT TIME. HIS STATEMENT
THAT NO ONE HAD GONE TO ADDIS TO CONSULT WITH NMOG
AND OAU, IN SPITE OF APPARENT GOR INTENTIONS TO SEND
SOMEONE, SEEMS TO POINT TO A GOR STILL STRUGGLING TO
DEVELOP A COORDINATED POLICY. END COMMENT.
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